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### Akin Denounces Production of Human Embryos for Research

Virginia scientists create embryos solely for stem cells

Washington, D.C.- Today, Congressman Todd Akin released the following statement regarding the creation of human embryos at the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine in Norfolk, Virginia, for subsequent destruction to obtain stem cells for research.

"I am a strong supporter of stem cell research, but not research that destroys human embryos. I am a cosponsor of HR 2096, the Responsible Stem Cell Research Act of 2001, which would establish a stem cell donor bank and authorize \$30 million in funding for ethical, adult stem cell research for fiscal year 2002.

"I support such research for the potential benefits to science and medicine. I also believe that human life needs to be respected in every stage of development and therefore am opposed to the destruction of embryos for research.

"The news of human embryos being created by scientists in Virginia for the express purpose of research is particularly troubling and should serve as a warning of the grave ethical problems of research using human embryos."